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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE

4 March 1968

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Budapest Preparatory Meeting Grinds On

The Budapest Preparatory Meeting's Friday and Saturday sessions produced lackluster communiqes calculated to give the impression that the meeting was entering the stage where every minor party rushes to get on record. The Friday communique, however, fails to mention the Czechoslovak address, which according to press reports, contained a clause urging "closer cooperation with the Social-Democrat parties of Western Europe"--presumably including the West German Social Democratic Party--and a defense of Rumania against charges that the walk-out was premeditated.

On Saturday, the Czechoslovaks and Italians held press conferences which provided some more interesting developments. The Italian statement, as reported by MTI, represented a retreat from the Italians' earlier stand on participation of non-communist progressive parties in the world communist conference. The Czechoslovak press conference produced another virtual defense of the Rumanians and reserved the Czechoslovaks' right to return to this question at a later date.

Poles Report Rumanian Walkout at Budapest Meeting

The 1 March issue of the Polish party daily Trybuna Ludu said that the Rumanian delegation at Budapest "had become isolated since its standpoint was in opposition to the views and feelings of all participants at the gathering." This was the only comment in the Polish press coverage of the Rumanian's walkout. [redacted]

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COMMENT: The Polish press may have been preparing the ground work for just such a possibility by its unusually straight reporting on Rumania's maverick views during the two weeks preceding the Budapest meeting.

Tito Shifts Ground on Nonaligned Conference

Yugoslav President Tito apparently has changed the emphasis of his proposed nonaligned conference from resisting imperialism to solving the economic problems of underdeveloped nations. During a 29 February interview with US Ambassador Elbrick, Tito explained that all countries which are interested in their own development, which subscribe to peaceful

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solutions for world problems, and which feel that the developed countries should help, should attend such a meeting.

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COMMENT: Tito's shift in emphasis may have followed efforts by his subordinates, such as Foreign Minister Nikezic, to tone down their chief's open hostility to the US, which studded the 7 February press conference at which the Yugoslav leader raised the idea of a new nonaligned meeting. Although Tito already has sent Kardelj off to East Africa to sound out opinion on the proposal, the Yugoslav press has emphasized that much time and careful preparation must precede its convocation.

Tito suggested 25X1 during his recent stay in Ethiopia that the meeting be held in Addis Ababa. Haile Selassie reportedly threw cold water on the idea.

Ambassador Gronouski to Visit US in May

"Ambassador to Poland, Gronouski, will return in May to address a \$100-a-plate party dinner in Milwaukee," according to a front page story in the 1 March issue of the Wall Street Journal. The article, entitled "Johnson Teammates Begin Warming Up for Autumn Political Wars," lists other prominent Administration officials who allegedly will "carry heavy political loads."

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